US IOOS® Coastal and Ocean Modeling Testbed Round-up

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ABSTRACT

The Coastal and Ocean Modeling Testbed (COMT) uses targeted research and development to accelerate the transition of scientific and technical advances from the coastal and ocean modeling research community to improve identified operational ocean products and services (i.e. via research to operations and also operations to research). The vision of the program is to enhance the accuracy, reliability, and scope of the federal suite of operational coastal and ocean modeling products, while ensuring its diverse user community is better equipped to solve challenging coastal problems. Since its initiation in June, 2010, non-federal partner, the Southeast University Research Association (SURA) has led the development of the COMT to include a flexible and extensible community research framework to test and evaluate predictive models to address key coastal environmental issues. This framework supports integration, comparison, scientific analyses and archiving of data and model output. The COMT has developed a cyber infrastructure to allow more effective collaborations among Federal research labs, the academic community and Federal operational centers to accelerate improvements of predictive models. This presentation will focus on this year's theme, "communicating probabilistic environmental intelligence and forecast information," in COMT. There are 5 projects underway and they have made significant progress in developing and defining transition pathways. We will show relevant accomplishments for the projects as well as accomplishments for the COMT infrastructure in its process for integration with NOAA. The Chesapeake Bay hypoxia project is investigating using IOOS Regional Associations to host operational products in a demonstration phase during transition and the WCOFS project has been integrated in a cross Line Office coordinated implementation project. Each project is using different tactics to communicate probabilistic environmental intelligence. Finally, we will provide an outlook for 2016.